IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Tomas Bäck, et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

(A Divisional

Application of Serial

No. 09/423,090)

Examiner: N. Lucchesi

Art Unit: 3732

Filed: January 3, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

PRODUCING ELONGATE SUPPORT ELEMENT AND PRODUCT, AND USE OF THE

SUPPORT ELEMENT

Atty Docket: 21547/0287

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/423,090, filed November 2, 1999.

Page 1, lines 1-25, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates inter alia to a method for producing an elongate support element with associated seats for replacement structure in human body parts